UNOPS in 2023

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Now is the time for practical action

From the Executive Director

The year 2023 saw our world grappling with the devastating impact of multiple and overlapping crises and conflicts, compounded by the climate emergency.

Now, more than ever, UNOPS and our focus on operations is needed.

Last year saw UNOPS working in some of the world’s most challenging and fragile contexts, delivering meaningful actions that respond to the needs of those most vulnerable. From Gaza to Ukraine. From Afghanistan to Ethiopia. From Haiti to Yemen.

In Gaza, while we echoed calls for a humanitarian ceasefire, we worked alongside our UN family to support efforts on the ground, from procuring and delivering fuel to enable humanitarian response, to supporting the security of high-risk missions. We continued to coordinate and manage humanitarian access, and – tasked by the Secretary-General – started work to support the design and operationalization of the UN mechanism to facilitate, coordinate, monitor and verify humanitarian relief consignments to Gaza.

In Ukraine – where we just marked two years since the full-scale invasion of the country – my colleagues continued to respond to immediate humanitarian needs, as well as early recovery efforts, while helping lay the foundations for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient future.

In 2023, UNOPS worked in over 80 countries, always dedicated to offering practical solutions across sustainable development, peace and security, and humanitarian operations.

All of this has happened alongside extensive management reforms that UNOPS has successfully pursued over the past year and longer, raising trust among partners and shaping a new organizational culture.

As we edge closer to 2030, our world remains woefully off track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to needing more financial resources and a more enabling policy environment, we know that there is a glaring implementation gap to translate national and international ambitions on sustainable development into actions.

At UNOPS, we work hard – together with our partners – to help countries bridge the implementation gap in their efforts to deliver on the SDGs and advance their climate ambitions. We do this mainly through our capacity in procurement, infrastructure, and project and programme management.

At last year’s COP28, UNOPS was selected along with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to host the Santiago Network on climate action – a critical initiative that will connect vulnerable developing countries with the technical assistance they need to build climate resilience and advance their climate targets.

But we want to do more. As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our efforts to offer practical solutions to the big global challenges, in the service of peace, sustainable development and climate action.

Our mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development.

We envision a world where people can live full lives supported by sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure and by the efficient, transparent use of public resources in procurement and project management.

In 2023, by responding to the needs of our partners, UNOPS delivered around $2.7 billion worth of services, through about 1,100 projects in more than 80 countries.

Jorge Moreira da Silva
UN Under-Secretary-General
and UNOPS Executive Director

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António Guterres,
UN Secretary-General

UNOPS provides meaningful technical expertise to countries in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. UNOPS technical support to UN agencies in procurement and other specialized areas has expedited the provision of relief services to millions of people in need, and in doing so, contributed to more stable and secure societies.”

© UNOPS/Elise Laker
Annual results

With our focus on operations, UNOPS supports the UN family, governments and other partners to accelerate progress on the SDGs, advance climate action and build a future that leaves no one behind.

In 2023, our work included:

- **$1.6 billion** worth of goods and services procured on behalf of our partners
- **55 schools** constructed, designed or rehabilitated
- **$66 million** worth of projects delivered in Small Island Developing States
- More than **23 million** days of paid work created for local people
- **187 km** of roads designed, constructed or rehabilitated
- **7 hospitals and 49 health clinics** constructed or rehabilitated
- More than **2.2 million** days of paid work created was undertaken by women
- **$1.3 billion** worth of projects delivered in least developed countries
- **$531 million** worth of projects delivered in landlocked developing countries
- More than **50%** of UNOPS project work ($1.4 billion) delivered in fragile and conflict-affected contexts
Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals

To advance the 2030 Agenda, we support a variety of partners from across the UN family, programme and donor countries, international financial institutions, vertical funds and multi-partner initiatives, and intergovernmental organizations.

Partners we supported to advance the SDGs in 2023

SDGs we helped partners to advance in 2023

How our services met partners’ needs in 2023

*Partners listed by volume of delivery.
Action where needs are greatest

Most of UNOPS operations in 2023 were in countries and territories which are in special or fragile situations.

*Global activities are managed mainly from Geneva, New York and Copenhagen.

This map is for illustrative purposes and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of UNOPS concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.
Did you know?
We operate in 33 countries and territories out of 39 considered to be fragile and conflict-affected.

Conflict and crisis response

When crises happen, UNOPS works with our partners to respond, recover and rebuild in a sustainable and inclusive way. From first responders clearing mines and procuring critical supplies, to undertaking damage assessments and rehabilitating critical infrastructure, we support countries and communities in the critical task of building back better so that society can better cope with future shocks.

Our Priorities

Promoting livelihood opportunities for vulnerable people
We help expand long-term livelihood opportunities, providing cash-based assistance, improving access to markets and building social safety nets.

Rapid response
We support the delivery of urgent humanitarian assistance – including by procuring critical supplies, building and rehabilitating temporary and long-term infrastructure, and providing a range of human resources and logistical services.

Supporting recovery
We support early recovery efforts, helping to (re)connect vulnerable communities with essential services and rebuilding social infrastructure with a key focus on resilience, sustainability and inclusion.

Peace, security and justice
We help enhance security and build the foundations for countries and communities to achieve long-term peace and sustainable development – from aiding peacekeeping efforts and explosive threat management, to helping strengthen the rule of law and equal access to justice.

Climate action and resilience
We help communities and countries mitigate, address and adapt to the impacts of climate change – from planning, developing and managing key infrastructure, to fostering sustainable and resilient supply chains.

Building institutional capacity
We help strengthen government institutions and build the capacity of national and local organizations to enable the delivery of services that are more sustainable, inclusive and effective.

How we support
Improving livelihoods for vulnerable families in Afghanistan

The fall of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan sent immediate shockwaves through the already fragile country. Forty-two million Afghans who were reeling from decades of war, a fragile economy and recurrent climate-induced disasters faced one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises. The consequent devaluation of the currency, rapid inflation and widespread unemployment have resulted in a drastic rise in both urban and rural poverty.

With funding from the Afghanistan Resilience Trust Fund and the World Bank, UNOPS is implementing the Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project, which aims to strengthen community resilience and improve livelihoods. The project is providing short-term employment opportunities for 1 million households across 29 Afghan provinces. To generate more livelihood opportunities and income for vulnerable Afghans, the project has already engaged more than 6,000 community councils – composed of approximately 40 per cent women. These councils prioritize projects, identify vulnerable households and manage workers.

Living in a country extremely vulnerable to climate change, local communities typically prioritize projects that mitigate the risks. To date, the project has completed more than 3,000 sub-projects that help build climate resilience across Afghanistan – from building protection walls and dams to planting trees.

A team from UNOPS speaks to construction workers in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan © UNOPS/Rafiullah Hemat

1 million households across 29 Afghan provinces benefiting from short-term employment opportunities
The humanitarian situation in Gaza is catastrophic and the ability of humanitarian partners to deliver even basic aid has been decimated. Despite the severe challenges, UNOPS is committed to staying and delivering for the people of Gaza.”

Jorge Moreira da Silva, UNOPS Executive Director

Supporting UN response efforts in Gaza

Since 7 October 2023, the escalation of hostilities in Gaza has created unimaginable human suffering, physical destruction and collective trauma across Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Some 1.7 million people – 75 per cent of Gaza’s population – have been forced from their homes (as of 10 February 2024).

In support of the ongoing humanitarian response to the situation in Gaza – and in partnership with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East – UNOPS is procuring and delivering fuel to enable humanitarian response in critical sectors such as health, food, water, sanitation and hygiene.

In addition, UNOPS is providing operational support to the UN mine action team – enhancing the security of high-risk UN and World Health Organization missions across Gaza, and bringing essential non-food items – such as blankets, foldable mattresses, pillows, bed sheets and plastic mats – for distribution to affected communities.
Increasing access to basic services in Tigray

The conflict in northern Ethiopia has had a devastating impact on millions of people and left communities, including those in Tigray, without access to basic services.

On behalf of the government of Ethiopia, UNOPS is implementing a project aimed at rebuilding and improving access to basic services and climate-resilient community infrastructure, working with local committees to rehabilitate and improve social services such as water, sanitation, health and education.

Reaching around 365,000 people, the initiative is part of a larger World Bank-funded project supporting response, recovery and resilience-building efforts for conflict-affected communities.

A young student from Abergele-Mearey-Fre Sweat Primary School in Tigray, Ethiopia. © UNOPS

Around 365,000 people provided with increased access to basic services
Did you know?
The total cost of reconstruction and recovery in Ukraine is estimated to be $486 billion over the next decade. In 2024 alone, $15 billion will be needed for immediate reconstruction and recovery priorities at the national and community level, including the restoration of housing, essential services, energy and transport.

Supporting response and recovery efforts in Ukraine

Two years after Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the ongoing conflict has resulted in immense human suffering, with far-reaching economic consequences. Millions of people across the country have been left without access to basic services such as electricity and heating. And with much of the country’s infrastructure destroyed or severely damaged, providing support to affected communities is an urgent priority.

To support response and recovery efforts, UNOPS is working together with the UN family, Ukraine’s national and municipal governments, and other local and international partners – including the European Union, the governments of Denmark and Japan, and the World Bank – to provide much-needed assistance to vulnerable communities.

Procuring essential equipment and supplies. Supporting the rehabilitation and reconstruction of key infrastructure. Helping remove explosive remnants of war scattered throughout the country. UNOPS is supporting the people and the government of Ukraine to respond, recover and build back better – for a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient future for all Ukrainians.

A UNOPS team member speaks with a resident of a damaged apartment building in Ukraine’s Kharkiv region. © UNOPS/Yuri Veres
Restoring access to critical services in Yemen

The ongoing conflict in Yemen has left around 20 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Deteriorating economic conditions, damage to key infrastructure and the collapse of essential services have left millions at risk. Together with local implementing partners, UNOPS is working to increase access to essential services across Yemen.

In partnership with the World Bank, four projects are helping to restore access to critical urban infrastructure and services, enhance access to electricity through renewable energy solutions, improve water and sanitation services, and increase access to food and basic services in rural communities.

With support from the government of Japan, newly rehabilitated intra-urban roads will help provide more than half a million people with improved access to critical services and infrastructure including schools, hospitals and other facilities.

Finally, to support the UN-led peace process and humanitarian response, UNOPS also provides operational support to the Peace Support Project and the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen, which oversees the monitoring and inspection of commercial and humanitarian assistance cargo destined for Yemeni Red Sea ports.
Providing faster humanitarian relief

From hurricanes and earthquakes to volcanic eruptions and flooding, countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean are regularly exposed to natural disasters – with extreme weather events in the region only becoming more frequent as a result of climate change.

To improve the capacity of governments and international agencies to respond efficiently to natural disasters and other events that require urgent humanitarian assistance, UNOPS built the Regional Logistics Centre for Humanitarian Assistance, also known as the Humanitarian Hub.

The hub provides a crucial space for aid workers, humanitarian agencies and institutions, and international and national organizations to provide life-saving support to vulnerable communities in emergency situations as well as build resilience in the region.

UNOPS now manages the Humanitarian Hub (which was completed in 2018) and associated services in partnership with the government of Panama, including maintenance of the hub infrastructure.
Human resources support in times of crises

UNOPS facilitates fast and efficient human resources support for UN partners, supporting response efforts in times of crises – including during epidemics and disease outbreaks – as well as the delivery of ongoing UN operations across all regions.

In partnership with the World Health Organization, we manage over 1,200 personnel working on projects in 16 countries – helping the organization in its global efforts to achieve better health for all.

We also support the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to deliver its critical mandate of saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people. This includes managing over 3,200 personnel working on 89 projects in 103 countries.

Supporting peace and security

In 2023, UNOPS supported mine action; humanitarian, stabilization and explosive management activities; capacity building of national actors and United Nations missions; and the weapons and ammunition management work of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and partners in 19 countries and territories. It provided human resources management, procurement, contracting, grants management, technical and operational support, and financial and legal services.
To tackle the climate emergency and deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, urgent and ambitious climate action is required.

We provide practical solutions to help countries combat climate change and advance the shift to low-carbon economies. From managing multi-stakeholder initiatives to helping communities mitigate, address and adapt to the impacts of climate change, we help strengthen partners’ capacity to manage climate-related risks and impacts.

Did you know?
Infrastructure is responsible for 79% of all greenhouse gas emissions and 88% of adaptation costs.

To achieve the Paris Agreement objectives, we need a profound change to how infrastructure is planned, delivered and managed.

How we support

Adaptation and mitigation
We provide practical solutions to help countries combat climate change – including through sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure and nature-based solutions that will help drive long-term climate adaptation.

Infrastructure planning
We work closely with governments to analyze long-term infrastructure needs and identify key public infrastructure projects. We also advise on policies and capacity-building initiatives that will help advance climate adaptation, build resilience and promote socio-economic development.

Sustainable public procurement and green supply chains
Through our expertise in procurement, we help partners achieve more sustainable and effective practices, in accordance with national policies and priorities. Greener and more resilient supply chains can drive the shift to low-carbon solutions, supporting climate adaptation, protecting natural resources and improving socio-economic resilience.

Programme management
We help manage funds and administer grants for climate-related initiatives, and support the delivery of complex, locally adapted programmes for climate action.

Partnerships
Through our global Water, Environment and Climate portfolio, we support the design and management of multi-stakeholder initiatives and provide operational solutions that help to accelerate the energy transition and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

OUR PRIORITIES

Climate action
To tackle the climate emergency and deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, urgent and ambitious climate action is required.

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Building national resilience in Bangladesh

Jointly funded by the governments of Bangladesh, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the National Resilience Programme is a unique partnership between the government of Bangladesh and three UN agencies – the UN Development Programme, UN Women and UNOPS. It aims to sustain the resilience of human and economic development in Bangladesh through inclusive, gender-responsive and risk-informed development. Through this programme, UNOPS is helping the government strengthen its planning, technical and operational capacities, embedding resilience and gender elements into the whole lifecycle of infrastructure through an overarching asset management system.

Supporting climate action in vulnerable developing countries

As an outcome of the COP28 UN Climate Change Conference, UNOPS and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) will together host the Secretariat of the Santiago Network. The initiative was established with the goal of mobilizing the technical assistance and capacity building needed by vulnerable developing countries to avert, minimize and address climate-related loss and damage.

“UNOPS is proud to have been selected with UNDRR to co-host this critical platform, and we look forward to combining our areas of expertise to ensure developing countries can accelerate their climate action ambitions.”

Jorge Moreira da Silva, UNOPS Executive Director

A recipient of a food assistance programme in Sri Lanka. © UNOPS/Sahidaran Palaniyandi

A field visit takes place in Manikganj, Bangladesh. © UNOPS/Asif Shifat
Addressing climate-forced migration and displacement

The Global Centre for Climate Mobility is a unique partnership enabled by UN Member States and supported by relevant agencies of the UN system, including UNOPS and respective regional inter-governmental organizations, to address climate-forced migration and displacement.

The Centre’s regional Climate Mobility Initiatives generate data and analysis, develop regional agendas for action, and mobilize political support for locally anchored solutions to anticipate and address climate mobility.

Students conduct a science experiment in a new classroom at Fukushani Secondary School in Zanzibar, Tanzania. © UNOPS/Moshi J. Lukindo

Recovering from Cyclone Idai in Zimbabwe

When Cyclone Idai made landfall, it was one of the deadliest cyclones to ever hit Africa. It destroyed lives, livelihoods and infrastructure.

In response, the World Bank-funded Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project – managed by UNOPS – brought together various UN organizations with different expertise to help the country recover.

Basic healthcare services were revitalized. Awareness of gender-based violence issues was raised – and support services were provided to survivors. Schools, water and sanitation systems, roads, irrigation networks and other critical community infrastructure were rehabilitated. Agricultural crops were restored, providing livelihood opportunities.

Implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Organization for Migration, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization, the $72 million project helped communities recover in the immediate aftermath of the disaster – and to build the foundation for long-term resilience and regional recovery.

Nancy Chigwizura, a livestock farmer from eastern Zimbabwe. © UNOPS/Djibrilla Mazin
Planning climate-resilient infrastructure in Saint Lucia and Ghana

In partnership with the government of Saint Lucia, UNOPS and the University of Oxford developed a pipeline of evidence-based infrastructure projects for the Small Island Developing State, aligned with its Paris Agreement targets and national development priorities.

The report highlights the growing infrastructure needs Saint Lucia faces due to climate change and aims to help maximize socio-economic development while protecting the country’s unique natural resources.

A complementary infrastructure financing strategy was also developed to equip Saint Lucia with a robust strategy to attract sustainable infrastructure financing.

In Ghana, UNOPS partnered with the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, the Global Center on Adaptation, the University of Oxford and the UN Environment Programme to develop a landmark study on the impact of climate change on Ghana’s infrastructure development. The long-term goal is to enhance the resilience of Ghana’s infrastructure against the threats of climate change, including through nature-based solutions. The study will also help ensure that infrastructure development is integrated across different sectors.
Supplying health goods and services
We procure medical equipment and supplies, and provide technical advice to help strengthen procurement processes for public healthcare systems.

Managing health programmes
We manage implementation of partners’ funds and grants, host platforms and initiatives, and provide capacity development services to enable the effective delivery of health programmes.

Improving health infrastructure
We assess, plan, rehabilitate and build health infrastructure – including hospitals, health centres and laboratories – as well as essential supporting infrastructure, such as energy, water and waste management facilities.

How we support
Supplying health goods and services
We procure medical equipment and supplies, and provide technical advice to help strengthen procurement processes for public healthcare systems.

Did you know?
Since 2016, UNOPS has delivered over $6.9 billion worth of health projects and programmes.

In 2023, 30% of our services targeted health interventions, with more than 200 of the projects we worked on directly contributing to SDG 3 – good health and well-being.

Sustainable, inclusive and resilient health systems are critical to addressing global health challenges and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

From working with governments to develop and improve public health procurement, to ensuring critical infrastructure is in place to enhance access to services, we support efforts to build a healthier future for all.

Our Priorities
Health

Health workers test out new medical equipment at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Bridgetown, Barbados. © UNOPS/Himal Reece
Strengthening healthcare capacity in Guatemala

While the people of Guatemala have universal access to healthcare, their needs are not always met. Guatemala’s public healthcare system has been challenged with limited resources, an increasing number of patients, high medical and treatment costs, and poor infrastructure.

To improve the provision of health services, UNOPS supported Guatemala’s Social Security Institute to strengthen the efficiency and transparency of its medicines and medical supplies procurement processes. Through the project, UNOPS designed policies and trained 600 staff in sustainable public procurement and supply chain management, and helped stock 114 health facilities across the country with medicine. The six-year project resulted in an estimated savings of around $250 million, with around 57 per cent savings on the purchase of medicines – improving healthcare for an estimated 3.2 million Guatemalans.

"This project achieved great advances for health in the country and was recognized in terms of innovation, technology and efficiency. This represented a significant learning experience for UNOPS, for the health system in [Guatemala] and for the Social Security Institute, in favor of improving health systems.”

Andrea Calvaruso,
Director of UNOPS in Guatemala
Improving access to critical health services in Jordan

As host to a large number of Syrian refugees, and in combination with a growing population, Jordan’s healthcare system is under pressure. UNOPS in partnership with the government of Japan, is partnering with the Royal Medical Services to enhance Jordan’s operational capacity and improve access to quality healthcare services across the country. Over the years, projects funded by the government of Japan have rehabilitated a number of hospitals and health departments, procured critical medical equipment and ambulances, and upgraded a medical warehouse.

In order to respond to the increased demand for healthcare services, UNOPS, in partnership with the European Union, expanded the capacities of three main public hospitals by constructing and rehabilitating emergency departments and procuring essential medical equipment, solar energy systems and furniture.

In addition, UNOPS procured and delivered critical medical equipment and furniture to two main public hospitals in partnership with United States Agency for International Development.

Providing access to health for vulnerable populations in Myanmar

The Access to Health Fund is a multi-donor fund established in 2019 to support the provision of health in Myanmar. The fund follows on from the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund, which delivered around $308 million of healthcare support from 2012 to 2018.

UNOPS manages the Access to Health Fund with a focus on the most underserved and vulnerable populations. The programme works with implementing partners to increase access to improved health services and strengthen local and community-based health systems.

Health interventions are supported through integrated programmes in the areas of maternal, newborn and child health, nutrition, sexual and reproductive health and rights, drug use and health consequences, tuberculosis and malaria. In one example from 2023, the Fund worked with a partner organization to introduce a new accessible mobile app to reach more young people with sexual and reproductive health and rights knowledge.

Between 2019 and 2023 the Access to Health Fund has helped maintain health services for more than 5 million people in conflict-affected areas of Myanmar. To highlight a few, activities have made it possible for more than 90,000 pregnant women and over 60,000 children to receive support for life-saving emergency referrals. It has helped nearly half a million people to be screened for tuberculosis across the country and reached over a quarter of a million people who inject drugs with HIV prevention programmes each year.

A doctor adjusts medical equipment at a hospital run by Jordan’s Royal Medical Services. © UNOPS
Improving access to blood and transfusion services in Somalia

Access to safe blood supply and transfusion services in Somalia is a challenge, hindered by blood shortages and a lack of storage capacity. To address this, UNOPS supported the government of Somalia with the construction of the country’s first fully functioning national blood bank.

Working with UNFPA and the World Health Organization, UNOPS planned, designed and constructed the blood bank as well as procured its equipment — including state-of-the-art technology allowing the facility to screen, prepare and securely store blood and blood products. The Somali National Blood Bank can store up to 10,000 units of donated blood.

In 2023, the new blood bank was inaugurated by Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre, who cited the facility as a major milestone in Somalia’s efforts to provide safe and reliable blood products to those in need.

“The blood bank project is a testament to our commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure in Somalia, ensuring timely and safe blood transfusions to those that need it, thus improving medical services for the people of Somalia.”

Ala’a Nemer, Director of UNOPS in Somalia
Strengthening healthcare in the Philippines

Following the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, UNOPS has been working closely with the government of the Philippines to strengthen its healthcare system. Through the ‘Health System Enhancement to Address and Limit COVID-19’ (HEAL) project, funded by the Asian Development Bank, UNOPS is upgrading testing, surveillance and treatment facilities nationwide as well as procuring medical supplies.

The HEAL project aims to go beyond supporting immediate response efforts to enhance efficiency, sustainability and response capabilities that will help futureproof the country’s healthcare system.

By the end of 2023, UNOPS had delivered over $20 million worth of medical supplies, equipment and vehicles – from ambulances and furniture to incineration plants and lab equipment.
Enhancing medical care in Albania

As part of its support for Albania’s COVID-19 emergency response – and to expand access to high-quality medical services – UNOPS partnered with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to renovate the Infectious Diseases Clinic within the Mother Teresa Hospital in Tirana.

Funded through a €13.5 million World Bank loan, the works transformed the facility into a state-of-the-art health clinic that serves more than 10,000 patients a year.

The hospital’s infectious disease clinic was equipped with 16 emergency beds, 87 high-care beds, 8 intensive care beds, special isolation wards and fully-equipped emergency rooms – helping medical staff to improve life-saving medical services to people in need.

As part of the project, UNOPS also procured and delivered essential hospital equipment – including 28 ambulances, scanners, digital X-ray systems, all-purpose ultrasound machines and other advanced diagnostics equipment – which were installed in more than a dozen hospitals across the country.

This investment is a concrete expression of respect and gratitude, and gives doctors the opportunity to work in the most optimal conditions in line with the highest international standards.”

Edi Rama, Prime Minister, Albania
Strengthening healthcare in east Africa

Managed by UNOPS, the European Union-Intergovernmental Authority on Development COVID-19 Response Programme delivered medical supplies and equipment, enhanced regional capacity to coordinate national responses, and increased access to health, water, sanitation and hygiene services.

The programme strengthened surveillance and rapid response within health systems, mitigating the health and socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in critical cross-border areas across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. This programme – which benefitted millions of people – was implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, TradeMark East Africa and UNICEF.

A community meeting to discuss project activities takes place in Tadjourah, Djibouti. © UNOPS/ Rabail Habib
Supporting the global shift to clean, reliable and affordable energy – including through expanded infrastructure and sustainable procurement – is vital to tackling the climate emergency and advancing socio-economic development.

Around the world, UNOPS is helping to accelerate the transition to low-carbon economies and supporting efforts to build a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive future for people and the planet.

In 2023, UNOPS implemented green energy initiatives in some of the world’s most challenging contexts – including in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen.

Did you know?
Around 675 million people globally still live without access to electricity. Access to energy means improvements to every aspect of life: from better healthcare and access to education to more time and better income opportunities.

How we support

Re-establishing energy services
We help conduct damage assessments of energy infrastructure and support reconstruction efforts to re-establish energy services after disasters or conflict situations.

Energy-efficient infrastructure
We help design, construct and maintain energy-efficient infrastructure while also retrofitting and upgrading existing infrastructure to improve energy efficiency.

Sustainable off-grid energy solutions
We help design, install and maintain renewable energy mini-grid systems for small-scale electricity supply in rural areas as well as supply standalone power sources and storage solutions in off-grid locations.
Increasing access to renewable energy in rural Sierra Leone

According to the World Bank, just over 27 per cent of Sierra Leone’s population – and just under 5 per cent of people living in rural areas – have access to electricity. UNOPS has been working with partners to improve access to sustainable energy for people across Sierra Leone since 2016.

Funded by the government of the United Kingdom, the Sierra Leone Rural Renewable Energy Project has brought solar-powered energy to community health centres, schools, houses and businesses. By installing distribution networks in villages across the country – establishing dozens of independent mini-grids – the project is improving access to essential services – such as healthcare and education – and fostering livelihood opportunities and local economic development for more than 300,000 residents in rural communities.

UNOPS-implemented projects funded by the government of Japan and the World Bank are similarly supporting Sierra Leone to expand access to clean, affordable and reliable energy – while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building community resilience to climate change.

A small business owner kneads bread under solar-powered light in rural Sierra Leone. © UNOPS
Powering health in Lebanon

Lebanon has faced multiple socio-economic crises in recent years, leading to a sharp increase in extreme poverty and food insecurity and putting millions of people out of work. The crises have significantly impacted the provision of basic services for vulnerable communities, with hospitals across the country experiencing shortages in medical equipment, supplies and power.

To help combat the shortage of electricity, UNOPS worked with the government of Japan and Lebanon’s Ministry of Public Health to provide a reliable energy supply to hospitals and improve energy efficiency. Three solar energy systems were installed in three public hospitals, each with the capacity to generate more than 260 kilowatts of renewable energy – covering up to 30 per cent of the energy needs of the targeted hospitals. More than 13,000 light bulbs, fixtures and other accessories were also provided to the hospitals to improve energy efficiency.

Powering hospitals in Haiti

Haiti is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters and the severe impacts of climate change. Increasingly frequent hurricanes, floods, storms and earthquakes, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, have caused widespread damage, strained essential services and weakened the country’s healthcare system. Less than half of Haiti’s population has access to electricity.

To help, UNOPS partnered with the government of Haiti and the World Bank to equip five hospitals with hybrid solar power systems, providing the facilities with a clean, reliable source of energy. Together, the facilities deliver essential healthcare services for more than 500,000 people.

The solar power systems play a critical role in the operation of these hospitals – over-reliance on diesel to generate electricity is being significantly reduced and essential activities such as emergency care, surgery and maternity services are able to continue uninterrupted.”

Dabagai Dabagai,
Director of UNOPS in Haiti

Using solar panels in the governmental hospitals will not only reduce the cost of energy but it will enhance the hospitals’ sustainable development, reduce their expenses and use the resources to improve the quality of services, support the hospitals’ personnel and retain them.”

Dr. Firas Abiad,
Minister of Public Health, Lebanon

Recently installed solar panels at Tebnine Governmental Hospital in Lebanon.
© UNOPS/Fouad Choufany

Recently installed solar panels at St. Anne’s Hospital in Camp Perrin, Haiti. © UNOPS
Helping countries prepare for a low-emission, climate-resilient future

Too often, it’s the world’s most vulnerable and marginalized people who are most exposed to the ravaging impacts of climate change, extreme weather events and natural hazards. Increasing resilience to protect lives and livelihoods is critical.

Building on a partnership established in 2018, UNOPS provides the Green Climate Fund with specialized grant management services to help developing nations create emissions reduction and climate adaptation strategies. The Fund is the world’s largest fund dedicated to helping developing countries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and respond to the impacts of climate change.

UNOPS is supporting more than 180 projects with over 120 different grantees in 95 nations around the world.

In Niger, UNOPS is supporting communities to build climate resilience. © UNOPS/Ricci Shryock
We help partners:

- Design, build and rehabilitate infrastructure
- Develop infrastructure plans to achieve national development and climate strategies
- Identify performance gaps and solutions to optimize the long-term impact of infrastructure assets and services
- Strengthen capacity to plan, deliver and manage infrastructure systems

Sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure is essential for the immense needs of a changing climate – and the impact it is having on those most vulnerable.

Adequate infrastructure is also an enabler of sustainable development and sustained peace – helping to reduce inequalities, enable livelihoods, and promote good health and well-being.

We provide sustainable, inclusive and resilient infrastructure solutions for partners around the world – from enhancing transport, renewable energy, health and water infrastructure, to advising governments on ways to make public infrastructure more effective.

OUR EXPERTISE

Infrastructure

Sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure is essential for the immense needs of a changing climate – and the impact it is having on those most vulnerable.

Adequate infrastructure is also an enabler of sustainable development and sustained peace – helping to reduce inequalities, enable livelihoods, and promote good health and well-being.

We provide sustainable, inclusive and resilient infrastructure solutions for partners around the world – from enhancing transport, renewable energy, health and water infrastructure, to advising governments on ways to make public infrastructure more effective.

We help partners:

- Design, build and rehabilitate infrastructure
- Develop infrastructure plans to achieve national development and climate strategies
- Identify performance gaps and solutions to optimize the long-term impact of infrastructure assets and services
- Strengthen capacity to plan, deliver and manage infrastructure systems

187 km of roads
designed, constructed or rehabilitated

55 schools
constructed, designed or rehabilitated

7 hospitals and 49 health clinics
constructed, designed or rehabilitated
$1.6 billion
in goods and services procured

41%
of procurement with local suppliers

5,500
suppliers across 150 countries

Public procurement has the transformative potential to drive sustainable, resilient and inclusive development. It can be an agent of change – promoting inclusion and equal opportunity, strengthening supply chains and empowering local institutions.

We help governments and partners tap into the unique opportunities that public procurement offers to accelerate the shift to low-carbon economies, and to plan and implement transparent, cost-effective public procurement for sustainable impact.

We help partners:

• Use procurement to boost local economies, protect the environment, ensure human rights, drive equality and promote transparency
• Procure goods and services through pre-established agreements with suppliers or tailored processes
• Advise on complex or high-value tender processes
• Access our global e-commerce solution, UN Web Buy Plus
• Procure urgently needed supplies to respond to critical needs
• Improve buying processes by conducting procurement assessments, developing action plans and enhancing capacity
1,100 projects
implemented for partners
across the world

56% of projects delivered
directly to governments

More than
23 million days
of paid work created
for local people

Vannak Chrun, a programme
manager, visits a malaria
testing site in Strung Treng
province, Cambodia.
© UNOPS/Elise Laker

OUR EXPERTISE

Project management

Better projects can improve the lives of people
in need, ensure a more efficient and sustainable
use of resources, and help drive progress
towards the SDGs.

We apply sustainable approaches to implement
projects, programmes and portfolios of all sizes
while also enhancing the capacity of developing
countries to manage their own initiatives.

We help partners:
• Conduct project management assessments
to identify strengths and expertise, potential
weaknesses, and opportunities for investment
and capacity building
• Identify root causes for project performance
issues, benchmark practices and re-plan
projects to deliver expected results
• Address skills gaps and build capacity to
effectively deliver projects
• Maximize the impact, sustainability and
value for money of projects through our
project management expertise,
methodology and tools
Having the right people in the right place at the right time is key for any UN entity to deliver effectively on its mandate – especially in the context of humanitarian crises and emergency response. We provide flexible, tailored human resources solutions to UN partners across peace and security, humanitarian and development initiatives, enabling them to rapidly adjust their capacity to their needs. Through our services, we provide operational support to a range of partners, including the UN Environment Programme, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization.

We help partners:
- Identify qualified, motivated and professional personnel to work in some of the world’s most challenging environments
- Process payments to personnel contracted by other organizations, to support and facilitate projects
- Carry out robust contract administration and payroll services
- Develop cost-effective, flexible and fit-for-purpose contract arrangements
More than
2,300
implementing partners supported

321
projects with grants and funding activities in 179 countries

$516 million
in financial management services provided for implementation of grants and multi-partner pooled funds

Our Expertise

Financial Management

Transparent and efficient financial management is key to humanitarian, development and peace initiatives.

We manage the implementation of grants and funds across peacebuilding, humanitarian and development contexts – providing effective, transparent and efficient financial management services for projects, programmes and portfolios, working in support of national, regional or global development priorities.

We help partners:

• Manage their funds and programmes – providing technical oversight and stakeholder coordination
• Deliver cash-based assistance to people in need, through cash transfer and cash-for-work programmes
• Manage grants by identifying implementing partners through a transparent selection process as well as disburse and monitor grants to ensure planned activities are delivered
• Monitor and assess the capacity of grantees on behalf of partners, and verify the progress of implementation

UNOPS-managed funds and programmes include:

A woman receives money as part of a cash transfer programme in Paoua, Central African Republic.
© UNOPS/Elise Laker
Towards net-zero emissions

As part of efforts for a climate-neutral UN system and in alignment with the Paris Agreement and the UN Secretariat Climate Action Plan targets, we pledge to reduce corporate emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 and to reach net-zero before 2050.

This includes offsetting emissions generated from UNOPS internal operations around the world and accounts for indirect emissions – also known as ‘Scope 3’ emissions.

A new chapter at UNOPS

Since May 2022, following a series of management failures associated with the former Sustainable Investments in Infrastructure and Innovation initiative, widespread changes have taken place at UNOPS.

These include new leadership, new policies, a new strategy and restructuring, all endorsed by our Board. Reforms have taken place with full transparency.

UNOPS is now solely focused on operations – providing practical support for sustainable development and helping to deliver critical aid.

We are proud of the progress made and are committed to continuing our journey of reform.

All information on UNOPS management reforms is publicly available on our website.
We believe that equality and social inclusion are key to creating the conditions for people to live a life they value, where their needs are met, their human rights are protected and they can participate equally in society.

UNOPS is committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion, ensuring our workforce reflects the communities we serve and providing an environment free from discrimination, as outlined in our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our Workforce Strategy 2022-2025.

UNOPS has a zero-tolerance approach against inaction for sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. In 2023, UNOPS updated its Strategy on Prevention and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment to prevent unacceptable behaviours and respond appropriately if incidents occur.

In 2021, UNOPS achieved gender parity in its overall workforce, a milestone we have sustained to this day. Our commitment to equality remains steadfast and we are focused on becoming a truly inclusive and diverse workforce, where everyone feels like they belong.

**Our commitments**

**A diverse and inclusive future for all**

Unops Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Mainstreaming in Projects Strategy 2022-2025 strengthens our commitment to gender and social inclusion in our work. Across all regions, interventions on gender equality, diversity and social inclusion have been implemented in critical areas such as sustainable infrastructure, procurement, economic development, health, education and justice.

**Our projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51%</td>
<td>Women in overall workforce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Personnel from the Global South in international positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43%</td>
<td>Women in leadership positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44%</td>
<td>Personnel from the Global South in senior international positions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
UN System transition pathways

UNOPS Mission Hubs support the UN’s transition pathways needed to fulfill the 2030 Agenda.

They bring together a diverse range of knowledge, experience and expertise from across the UNOPS family – to maximize the impact of our work.

With cross-cutting themes including gender equality, social inclusion and climate action, our Mission Hubs aim to enhance our approach to project delivery – and guide our efforts to effectively tackle key global challenges and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

**Triple planetary crisis**
Address the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.

**Food systems transformation**
Contribute to actions that support increased food security and healthy diets for all.

**Quality healthcare**
Strengthen the availability of essential medical supplies, equipment and facilities to deliver quality healthcare and services.

**Small Island Developing States (SIDS) resilience and sustainability**
Support SIDS to increase resilience to environmental and economic shocks and harness the benefits of a sustainable ocean economy.

**Energy transition**
Increase access to clean and affordable energy and accelerate the net-zero transition – promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency.

**Just digital transformation**
Shape a just digital transformation in developing countries by promoting equal access to digital infrastructure, technologies and data.

**Social protection, equality, education and jobs**
Provide sustainable, essential services and infrastructure to communities and advance education and livelihood opportunities to overcome inequalities and create prosperity.

**Humanitarian, development and peace linkages**
Support holistic efforts to address the root causes of fragility and strengthen the resilience of communities affected by conflict and disasters.
From our people

What I like most about being an engineer is that it allows me to make a difference, in the community I live and the society at large [...] We’ve constructed water plants and provided water for the people and livestock in that area [and] constructed hospitals in the most remote areas and enabled them to have access to quality health services.

Imelda Malingu,
Construction Management Engineer, UNOPS in Kenya

I think what I like most are field missions, because it is something very special to witness the impact of our projects on communities. I can really see how our projects transform their lives.

Juyoung Lee,
Communications Officer, UNOPS in Senegal

The main thing that interests me is knowing that every morning, every worker can go to work and be safe, without getting injured, without being at risk of dying on-site or getting sick.

Line Moudjieu,
Occupational Health, Safety, Environment and Social Analyst, UNOPS in Cameroon

It has been such an honor for me to know that what we are doing every day is building the future, for those in need in some part of the world.

Tharawut Limpadatanachai,
HR Associate, UNOPS in Thailand

What I like most about my work as an architect is the impact it can have on improving the users’ quality of life and well-being.

Mona Boutros,
Architect, UNOPS in Lebanon

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What inspires and motivates our people?

Connect with us on LinkedIn to hear more from our people delivering on our mission around the world.

For any questions, comments and/or suggestions on this publication please contact: info@unops.org.

For more information: www.unops.org.